

CLAIMS

1. A method of configuring a radio link (20) between a first device (10a) and a second device (10b), each of which comprises radio means (30, 32), and wherein at least one of said devices comprises proximity detection means (38) and timing means (34), wherein said method comprises said proximity detection means detecting when said devices are proximate, said timing means detects the duration of proximity and respective radio means configures a link in dependence on said proximity detection and the duration thereof.
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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said configuring of said link comprises establishing a link.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said configuring comprises removing a previously established link.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said duration is less than ten seconds.
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5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said duration is about 2 seconds.
6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said
25 establishing of said link comprises the radio means (30, 32) of each respective device exchanging pre-installed radio identifiers.
7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said
30 establishing of said link comprises exchanging randomly generated radio identifiers.

8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said devices further comprise indication means (36) to indicate a configuration status of a link.

5 9. A system having a first radio device (10a) and a second radio device (10b) comprising radio means (30, 32) operable to communicate via a configurable radio link therebetween, and wherein at least one of said devices comprises proximity detection means (38) for detecting when said devices are proximate and timing means (34) for detecting the duration of said proximity,
10 and wherein said radio means (30, 32) configure a radio link in dependence of said proximity detection and the duration thereof.

10 10. A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first (10a) and second device (10b) are adapted to physically connect with respective host apparatus (12a, 12b) and wherein said apparatus communicate with one
15 another via said configurable radio link (20).

20 11. A radio device (10a,10c) operable to communicate via a configurable radio link (20) with a second device, the radio device comprising proximity detection means (38) for detecting when said devices are proximate, timing means (34) for detecting the duration of said proximity and radio means (30, 34) for configuring a radio link in dependence on said proximity detection and the duration thereof.

25 12. A radio device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said proximity detection means (38) comprises a reed switch (38a, 38c) and magnet (38b, 38d).

30 13. A radio device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said magnet (38b) has insufficient field strength to operate said reed switch (38a), and wherein said switch and magnet are arranged such that some of the magnetic field

lines emanating from the magnet are perpendicular to the direction in which the switch closes.

14. A radio device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said magnet (38d) has sufficient field strength to operate said reed switch, and wherein said switch (38c) and magnet (38d) are arranged such that the magnetic field lines emanating from the magnet are substantially parallel to the direction in which the switch closes.

15. A radio device as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14, wherein said timing means comprises a micro-controller (30) connected with said proximity detection means (38).

16. A radio device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said radio means comprises a digital transceiver (32) controlled by said micro-controller.

17. A radio device as claimed in any of claims 11 to 16, the device being further adapted to physically connect with a host apparatus and provide and receive data to and from said host apparatus.

18. A radio device (10a) for use with the system of claim 9 or claim 10, comprising proximity detection means (38) for detecting proximity with a similar radio device (10b), timing means (34) for detecting the duration of said proximity and radio means (30, 32) for configuring a radio link in dependence on said proximity detection and the duration thereof.